



November
28 & 29

ARRIVAL

Show Love
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Introduction

This week we begin our four-week Advent series *Arrival*. Advent literally means “arrival.” Typically during Advent we look at the Christmas story in the Gospels from different angles, but this year, we are doing something a bit different. In this series, we are looking at the reasons why Jesus came. He came to show love, give peace, be present and bring redemption. We begin the series with the idea that Jesus came to earth because He was motivated by love. He came to us so we might be able to come to God.

Discussion

1. **Read John 3:1-15** – the story of Nicodemus. Through this encounter and possibly others, Nicodemus comes to faith in Jesus. Describe your first encounter with Jesus. Was there more than one before you placed your faith in Him?
2. **Read John 3:16-17**. These verses tell us God is love for broken and rebellious enemies. Think for a moment about the brokenness in your world. God loves His enemies. God loves us. How has God showed His love to us?
3. What happens when we receive this gift of God’s love? What happens when we trust this gift of God? When we rest in God’s love?

Think About It

When we receive the amazing love of God, it transforms us for eternity and for today. It causes us to live differently. Romans 5:8 says “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” During Advent, we remember His great love. God sent His son, Jesus Christ, to enter our world by being conceived by the Holy Spirit in a virgin’s womb. By being born in a barn, by living a perfect life, by experiencing all of the temptations and pains we do and ultimately by sacrificing Himself on the cross for our sins – this is the gift of Advent.

Do Something

1. We can only understand the love of God if we truly understand what we are being saved from and being saved to. Have you received this gift of God’s Son? Have you stepped over the Faith Line and trusted Him?
2. If you have received this gift, are you living a transformed life? If so, how are you demonstrating that gift? If not, what steps do you need to take to once again demonstrate that gift?
3. Take a look around your Little Iowa. Who can you begin to demonstrate the gift of God’s love to in this Advent season?